

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY
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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 6272

BILL NUMBER: SB 368

NOTE PREPARED: Nov 17, 2003

BILL AMENDED:

SUBJECT: Prohibition on the Sale of Ephedra.

FIRST AUTHOR: Sen. Alting

FIRST SPONSOR:

BILL STATUS: As Introduced

FUNDS AFFECTED: X GENERAL
X DEDICATED
FEDERAL

IMPACT: State & Local

Summary of Legislation: The bill prohibits the sale or distribution of ephedra in Indiana. The bill makes the unlawful sale or distribution of ephedra a Class A misdemeanor. It also makes certain exceptions.

Effective Date: July 1, 2004.

Explanation of State Expenditures:

Explanation of State Revenues: There are no data available to indicate how many people may be convicted of unlawfully selling or distributing ephedra, a Class A misdemeanor. If additional court cases occur and fines are collected, revenue to both the Common School Fund and the state General Fund would increase.

The maximum fine for a Class A misdemeanor is \$5,000. Criminal fines are deposited in the Common School Fund.

If the case is filed in a circuit, superior, or county court, 70% of the \$120 court fee that is assessed and collected when a guilty verdict is entered would be deposited in the state General Fund. If the case is filed in a city or town court, 55% of the fee would be deposited in the state General Fund.

Explanation of Local Expenditures: A Class A misdemeanor is punishable by up to one year in jail. The average daily cost to incarcerate a prisoner in a county jail is approximately \$44.

Explanation of Local Revenues: If additional court actions occur and a guilty verdict is entered, local governments would receive revenue from the following sources: (1) The county general fund would receive

27% of the \$120 court fee that is assessed in a court of record. Cities and towns maintaining a law enforcement agency that prosecutes at least 50% of its ordinance violations in a court of record may receive 3% of court fees. If the case is filed in a city or town court, 20% of the court fee would be deposited in the county general fund and 25% would be deposited in the city or town general fund. (2) A \$3 fee would be assessed and, if collected, would be deposited into the county law enforcement continuing education fund. (3) A \$2 jury fee is assessed and, if collected, would be deposited into the county user fee fund to supplement the compensation of jury members.

State Agencies Affected:

Local Agencies Affected: Trial courts, local law enforcement agencies.

Information Sources:

Fiscal Analyst: Karen Firestone, 317-234-2106.